

The Athenian Mercury:

Saturday, January 12. 1694.

Quest. 1. **W** Hether a good thing is not spoil'd by being put into your Athenian Mercury?

Ans. Those who have no more Wit than to think so may easily look off it, and perhaps find fillier things, and be pleas'd with 'em, under greater Names.

Quest. 2. Supposing a Man has by his Ill-fortune, Credulity, Ill-husbandry, Suretyship, &c. run himself beyond all present Capacity of paying what he owes, and his Creditors will not believe his Integrity, but wou'd throw him in to Gaol, and let him Rot for't, as they commonly express it: I desire to know,

1. Whether it be lawful for him to Abscond himself to scape their Hands?

2. Whether it be lawful to run to the Savoy, White-Fryers, or other such priviledged places for Protection: — Which I never knew any of what Profession or Reputation so ever scruple when Necessity try'd 'em?

3. What's your Opinion of Sanctuaries in general, some of which we read of in Scripture, and which I hear are either allow'd, conniv'd at or usurp'd in all or most parts of the World?

Ans. To the first Question — The Law of Nature teaches us to preserve our Liberty by all lawfull means, as long as we are able, which next to Life is the dearest Temporal Blessing, if not in some Cases preferable unto it. The Body of Man will make no Satisfaction to his Creditors, (unless they sold his Tallow, or made Mummy of him) and therefore we know not any who question the Lawfullness of getting it out of the way, to prevent taking Lodgings in the Counter or Ludgate.

To the second Question — Whether it be lawfull to run into the Savoy, &c. for Protection? This Resolution will partly depend upon that of the former already decided, partly on the Circumstances of the Person who is suppos'd to be going thither. 'Tis true, there's difference between getting out of the way ones self, and carrying off Effects and Goods with one which are none of our own; nay, perhaps taken up just before for that very End — One of the vilest sort of Knaveries, and in some Sence worse than Publick Robbery — and indeed it seems a hard Case that so many shou'd be hang'd for taking thirteen pence half Penny on the Highway, or for borrowing a piece of Silk or Lace from a Shop, and yet those scape Scot-free who carry off sometimes many hundreds. Of t'other side, it must be own'd every thing wou'd fain live, and 'tis a severe Tryal of a mans Honesty to give that out of his Hands, which shou'd keep him from Starving — Tho' considering its none of his own, we think 'twou'd be better to pay as far as 'twill go, and trust Gods Providence, labouring tho' in the meanest Capacity to get a Living.

To the third — for Sanctuaries in general — we read of 'em in Scripture 'tis true, for Homicide, when not Wilful, as the Cities of Refuge, but never we think for Debt — unless we call Davids Hiding Places Sanctuaries, to whom we read, repair'd those that were in Debt as well as those that were otherwise Distressed. Such Sanctuaries there now are in Popish Countries, and were formerly here in England, and we need go no further than Westminster to find 'em; nay, the very Name of Sanctuary is yet remaining, tho' moulded by length of time, and vulgar pronunciation, which wou'd be apt to make one think that the word Centry, or standing Centry had the same Original, from those who stood watching and guarding such places. Did not both Sentinel and Sentry (as it were better written) plainly owe their Original to the Latin

Verb Sentire, from Vigilance and Watchfulness, as soon as he approach'd to discover or perceive the Enemy. That such places are in themselves lawful in some Cases, there's no doubt to be made, because God himself gave positive order for them; but this never in the case of wilful Murder, where even the Horns of the Altar cou'd not preserve: Whereas we know very well what Work the Monks did formerly make with their Sanctuaries here in England, and still do in Popish Countries, where 'tis a very difficult matter to bring the blackest Offender to Justice if he get but a Monastery over his Head; to say nothing of the Monk Cowl it self, which makes 'em strait as Innocent as the Child unborn, or at least as the rest of the Fraternity.

As for Sanctuaries in the case of Debt, the former difficulties recurr; not to add that for those which Custom has granted here at present, all own 'em the greatest Sinks of Villany that are out of Hell, and we shou'd as soon expect a Man shou'd remain honest who joyn'd himself with a Crew of Banditti, as long retain any Sentiments of Religion and Virtue, after he once gets into these places, which if Persons are before good will make 'em bad, it bad yet worse, as we have observ'd in all we ever yet knew who fled thither, which one would think to live in 'em, or but pass thro' 'em, were none of God's Dominions any more than the King's, which will give Encouragement as well as Harbor, to all sorts of Villains and Villanies, nothing being there to be seen or heard but the height of Riot and Lewdness. In the mean time, since 'tis very hard, as before, that a Man's Liberty shou'd be taken away for what many times he could not avoid, and so one misfortune be punished with a greater. It were a thing, we humbly conceive, very well becoming the Wisdom of a Nation (but bear witness we don't pretend to advise any Body) to regulate a Matter of so great difficulty and moment, towards which perhaps Sanctuary Laws wou'd go a great length. However it seems necessary a difference shou'd be made between those who are undone by unavoidable misfortunes, or those whom their own Ill Husbandry or Extravagance have ruin'd. But if you further enquire when this is like to be done, We Answer, perhaps when we have done writing.

Quest. 3. I am a young Woman, and have been Courted by several very good Gentlemen, but never could Love any, 'till 'twas my hard Fortune to be Courted by a Master of a Ship, and lov'd him as dearly as my Life: When he knew I lov'd him, he wou'd have lain with me, but as dearly as I lov'd him I kept my self honest; and when he saw that he cou'd not make a Where of me, he told me he lov'd me for my Virtue, and did it only to try me, so that I cou'd not hate him: All this was against my Friends Consent, so that they turn'd me out of their Doors because I lov'd him. Then he promis'd to Marry me, and I lent him Money, and the Night before we were to be Marry'd he went away and never saw me more: Pray be pleas'd to Advise me what to do, Had I best marry another, or live a Maid all my life-time, or send Letters to him, Kind Words or Cross Words for Revenge? He has not sent one word since he went away, and my Heart is almost broke: Your speedy Answer is desir'd by, Yours, &c.

Ans.

Answ. Once a Year we meet with such Innocence, and when we do the World shall be sure to have it. For the entertaining a *faithless Sailor*, and that against your Friends Consent, you did very ill, and might have been more severely Punish'd for't than you are, and 'tis well you come off as you did, and that your Love and Innocence together has not quite ruin'd you: And less Excusable still is your entertaining him, after you perceiv'd by his *dishonourable Attempt* his Vicious Inclinations, and say you escaped well with the Lots of a little Money, when he left you what was so much more Valuable. To your Questions—Admit some other more Virtuous and Deserving Lover, if any such offers, which will be the best way to put the Traitor out of your Memory, and never dye a Maid for one that wou'd neither let you live Maid or Wife. For Letters to him, never trouble your self about it, since either he'll not Answer 'em at all, but only despise you and insult over your Kindness, (for if you Write to him, rail as long as you will, he'll believe you still Love him) or else Wheedle you in again, make a thousand Excuses (which we Men never want) and ten to one persuade you to believe him, and if he comes back again, give him all he left behind. Or shou'd he Marry you, may have two or three Wives at other Ports, who must be all serv'd before you.

Quest. 6. A Lady has receiv'd the Private Addresses of a Gentleman for almost seven Years, whose Fortune is so small, that he dares make no publick Pretensions, lest they shou'd be frustrated by her Friends: He has always behav'd himself towards her with that Honour and Respect due to her Birth and Virtue, pretends to be most passionately and unfeignedly in Love with her, and makes her his Confidant in all the secret Affairs of his Life, among the rest giving her a particular Account of several Women he has very often lain with, whom he has been acquainted with since his Love to her: Your Opinion is desir'd, Whether any one violently in Love can be guilty of such Actions? or, Whether she mayn't expect he'll do the same after Marriage that he does before? or, Whether ought she to esteem him more for his Sincerity in telling her what he might so easily keep from her, and Marry him on Promise of his Constancy for the future?

Answ. Pray Madam, let's first ask you a small Question before we resolve yours, Does your Ladship think your Spark wou'd admire your Ladship the more, and believe your Promises to be constant after Marriage, if you told him, you your self admitted the Embraces of such and such Gallants, but only told it him out of pure Love and Sincerity, and as soon as you came together resolve to leave it? If you think he wou'd not be pleas'd with it, why shou'd you with the like, since it's plain you are yet upon the Square, and People are seldom more inclin'd to Constancy after Marriage than before. It's plain he thinks you

not Virtuous, or wou'd make you so, and for that Reason brings Examples of others.

Advertisements.

✧ The Gentleman who sent word out of the Country that he'd subscribe for 6 Sets of the *French Book of Martyrs*, is desired to send in his Subscriptions with all speed, as also are all others who expect any benefit by the Proposals made for that Work, for after the 10th. of March next no more Subscriptions shall be taken in, the Work having met with that Encouragement as to engage the Undertaker to put the *Second Volume* to the Press in a few days.

✧ The *Compleat Library* will be Continued Monthly as formerly, and shall contain an *Historical Account* of all the Valuable Books publish'd from time to time, the various Editions of Books, several Papers and Manuscript Copies never Printed before; as also an Account what considerable Works are in or going to the Press: If therefore any Gentlemen have met with any thing very Curious, or make any *Abridgment* themselves of what they Publish, that they would have Communicated to the Publick, if they direct it to John Dunton at the Raven in the Poultry, to be inserted in *The Compleat Library* for January now in the Press, they shall have their request answered, (provided they pay Postage) the Author designing that nothing shall pass in Europe, worthy of the Consideration of the Learned World, but what shall be met with in this *Journal*; and in order thereto has taken Care to have all New Pieces as soon as publish'd. Decembers *Compleat Library* will be Publish'd in a few dayes, which said Month concludes the *Second Volume*. At the End of every Twelve Months (which shall conclude each Volume) there shall be added two *Alphabetical Tables*, the one of the Books, and the other of the Matters.

✧ The Lord Chief Baron Aikyns's Speech to Sir William Apsbury, Lord Mayor Elect of the City of London, at the time of his being Sworn in Their Majesties Court of Exchequer, Monday the Thirtieth of October, 1693. Printed for Richard Baldwin.

✧ The Famous OYL for giving Ease in the GOUT (so often mentioned in the Gazette) prepared by Richard Stoughton, Apothecary, at the Unicorn in Southwark. Approved, and given under the Hands of their Majesties Physicians, and above twenty others Eminent of the Colledge, London, to be a Safe and Proper Medicine, no way hurtful, nor in the least repelling; it being also, by often Experience, found to be the best outward Application ever made use of, for removing old Aches, Pains, Bruises, Strains, Numbness, Stiffness, the want of Motion, and Weakness of any Part, (especially that Weakness remaining after a Fit of the GOUT) as also in the Palsey, and in Weakness and Rickets in Children: In these particulars I dare affirm no External Application in the World more effectual, and the fittest Medicine for those that (for some of the Cases above mentioned) use the Bath or Bagnio, to be applied then when the Pores are open. It is still Sold (with a Paper of Directions at large) at Man's Coffee-house at Charing-cross, Richard's Coffee-House at Temple-Bar; by Mr. Levingstone, Fruiterer at the Royal Exchange Gate; by Mrs. Garraway at the Corner of Sweetings-Alley; by T. Hawkins in George-yard, Lombard-street; and at the Authors own House. The largest Bottles 10 s. the smallest 5 s.

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